

Subject: Re: From John Davis to Nate
From: Ron Lorenzen <ron.lorenzen@lacity.org>
Date: 02/05/2013 08:49 AM
To: Greg Monfette <greg.monfette@lacity.org>
CC: Nate Kaplan <nate.kaplan@lacity.org>, Don Duckworth <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>, jruhlen916 <jruhlen916@aol.com>

Nate et al

First let me state that I am not the correct person to specifically answer CEQA questions BOE would have to do that.

That said, I can let you know the historic application. In CEQA is a section that states an assessment is not necessary if the project is "maintenance of existing landscaping with no expansion of use." That is the section referred to in Board reports relative to tree removal/sidewalk conflict.

During the Shuttle tree removal debacle, this issue was again raised. Although I was not directly a part of the discussion, I am aware that the reason the Board did not issue a Tree Removal Permit and opted to include tree removal as part of a greater House/Large Object Move Permit was the CEQA issue. The issue seems to be whether granting a Tree Removal Permit is discretionary on the Boards part (it appears as if the Public Works Counsel determined it was) then a CEQA review is required.

Therefore, the question of whether a CEQA review is not required under the section I quoted above is superseded by the discretionary action issue is still up in the air.

Like I said, this is really a legal question. If the person in mail pushes, we may have to address this to the City Attorney.

Hope this helps and let me know what you think.

R

On Tue, Feb 5, 2013 at 7:47 AM, Greg Monfette <greg.monfette@lacity.org> wrote:

Nate, this is best addressed by Mr. Lorenzen as he is most knowledgeable.

Thanks

On Fri, Feb 1, 2013 at 12:39 PM, Nate Kaplan <nate.kaplan@lacity.org> wrote:

Hi Greg,

I need some help answering some of the questions below. Mainly, I know CEQA review is not necessary in our case, but can you explain to me why its not required so I can send the answer to John Davis?

Thanks,

Nate

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <jd@johnanthonydavis.com>

Date: Fri, Feb 1, 2013 at 12:26 PM

Subject: From John Davis to Nate

To: Nate Kaplan <nate.kaplan@lacity.org>

Hi Nate,

I would like to meet with you to discuss the proposed removal of 17 mature trees on Sepuvlda Blvd.

Mark said there is an agreement with the city and a private business for the project.

Was the public notified of a comment period for this agreement and if not why.

Has a CEQA document been filed yet. At minimum an Initial Study is required to see if the project is exempt from CEQA.

What entity will be filing or has already filed in regard to CEQA with the State Clearinghouse.

This is a required step and the city cannot lawfully let the project go fwd with no CEQA clearance whatsoever.

Aside from procedure, the city should consider the alternative of what Santa Monica has done to preserve trees. They trim the roots, then place a recycled rubber mat material in for the sidewalk.

That way when the roots emerge again, the mat can simply be lifted and replaced after another minor trim.

Here the City is going to remove mature trees that provide valuable habitat to the many species of birds and mammals here.

Using concrete rather than the mats is really backward thinking in my opinion.

When can we meet?

Best Regards,

John

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Hello

From: Nate Kaplan <nate.kaplan@lacity.org>

Date: Fri, February 01, 2013 12:06 pm

To: jd@johnanthonydavis.com

Hi John,

I believe you stopped by the Westchester Office looking for me yesterday. I was working out of the West LA office.

Please email me your concerns when you have a moment.

Thanks,

Nate

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Nate Kaplan
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Greg J. Monfette, Superintendent I
Bureau of Street Services
Urban Forestry Division
Want to make a service request or need a tree permit?
Call [\(800\) 996-2489](tel:800-996-2489) or visit <http://bss.lacity.org/>.

Visit <http://bsspermits.lacity.org/treeprune/> if you need a tree prune permit today.

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Ronald D. Lorenzen
Assistant Chief Forester
Bureau of Street Services
Urban Forestry Division
[\(213\) 847-3077](tel:213-847-3077)

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Contact Service Request at [\(800\) 996-2489](tel:800-996-2489) or bss.boss@lacity.org